

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY: IRAQ IS BLINDING BUSH TO FLAGRANT NUCLEAR WEAPONS VIOLATIONS IN IRAN

Washington, DC: Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-proliferation, today released a letter to President Bush regarding Iran's advanced development of a nuclear power program. Rep. Markey is concerned that the Administration's focus on Iraq is blinding the President to alarming new developments of equal urgency regarding the open proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in both North Korea and Iran.

Markey stated, "President Bush has an historic opportunity to stop history from repeating itself. The President must ensure that Iran, another member of the Axis of Evil, does not obtain the resources and technology to build a nuclear weapon, like North Korea already has been able to do. However, it seems that this administration is choosing instead to turn a blind eye to Iran's development of a nuclear power plant in Bushehr, which may be completed by the end of the year. A nuclear power program in a country that has the oil and natural gas reserves the size of Iran's is simply a codeword for a nuclear weapons program."

"The President is moving quickly and decisively in Iraq to ensure that the world community disarms Saddam of all chemical and biological weapons. While Saddam is hiding the ball on weapons of mass destruction, North Korea and Iran flaunt their progress on the most dangerous weapon of mass destruction, nuclear bombs. Instead of addressing the clear and present nuclear danger in North Korea, this administration chose to disengage, which escalated the nuclear crisis dramatically. Meanwhile, the President is willfully ignoring Iran's blatant attempts to acquire nuclear weapons. The time to respond is now, *before* the world finds itself facing another nuclear power just like North Korea."

Rep. Markey's letter today on Iranian nuclear proliferation follows a series of letters to the Bush Administration and previous administrations on the need to confront the perils of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As Co-Chair and Founder of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-proliferation, Rep. Markey has held numerous forums on North Korea, Iraq, Iran, and other trouble spots for weapons proliferation.

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